

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,936,970 B2
DATED : August 30, 2005
INVENTOR(S) : Timothy Chen et al.

Page 1 of 2

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 8,

Lines 28-53, delete and insert the following:

2. The lamp inverter circuit as set forth in claim 1, wherein the inverter circuit is one of a voltage fed or current fed circuit.
3. The lamp inverter circuit as set forth in claim 1, wherein the unidirectional switch is a field effect transistor.
4. The lamp inverter circuit as set forth in claim 1, wherein the unidirectional switch is a bipolar junction transistor.
5. The lamp inverter circuit as set forth in claim 1, wherein the unidirectional switch detects if one of the lamp and the bus voltage signal has failed.
6. The lamp inverter circuit as set forth in claim 5, wherein the unidirectional switch ignites an auxiliary light source upon detection of failure of one of the bus voltage and the lamp.
7. The lamp inverter circuit as set forth in claim 5, further including a current limiting device to limit a maximum current, upon failure of the lamp.
8. The lamp inverter circuit as set forth in claim 1, wherein the unidirectional switch has a zero voltage turn-on point.
9. The lamp inverter circuit as set forth in claim 1, wherein the unidirectional switch has a zero current turn-off point.
10. The lamp inverter circuit as set forth in claim 1, wherein the preheating portion further includes a second switch, the second switch controlling a turning off of the preheating portion.

Column 8,

Lines 54-68, delete and insert the following:

11. A method of starting a lamp comprising:
receiving a bus voltage signal;
converting the bus voltage signal into an alternating current signal;
preheating the lamp to an ignition temperature;
igniting the lamp; and
inactivating the preheating after the lamp has been ignited, the preheating including unidirectional switching by a unidirectional switch which receives an ac control signal prior to the ac control signal being converted into a pulsating dc signal.
12. The method as set forth in claim 11, further including: detecting a conductive state of the lamp.
13. The method as set forth in claim 11, further including an independent inverter circuit used for the cathodes heating or an auxiliary lamp.

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Column 9,

Lines 1-10, delete and insert the following:

14. The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the step of detecting includes detecting the conductive state of the lamp with the unidirectional switch, the unidirectional switch having a zero voltage turn-on point and a zero current turn-off point.

15. The method as set forth in claim 11, further including:
detecting if the lamp has failed.

16. The method as set forth in claim 15, further including: igniting an auxiliary lamp upon detection of failure of one of the lamp and/or all of the lamp load.

Lines 11-13, delete and insert the following:

17. A method of igniting an auxiliary lamp comprising:
detecting a conductive state of a main lamp in a lamp ballast circuit with a switch that also controls preheating the main lamp;
detecting the integrity of the main lamp; and
switching current flow from the main lamp to the auxiliary lamp in the event of a main lamp failure.

Column 10,

Lines 1-13, delete and insert the following:

18. The method as set forth in claim 17, further including:
supplying auxiliary power to the auxiliary lamp in the event of lamp failure.

19. The method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the switch has a zero voltage turn-on point and a zero current turn-off point.

Signed and Sealed this

Sixth Day of December, 2005



JON W. DUDAS
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office